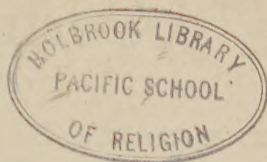


MARCH 1947



BIBLE
SOCIETY

Record



H. L. Phillips, Anderson, Ind.

Japan Turns Toward Christ
(See page 37)

Germany Responds

THE OPPORTUNITIES for rebuilding Germany into a Christian nation are boundless. But the time is short. The door is open but no one knows when it may be shut. Miracles can be done with the Bible if we seize the opportunity now. It will take time to rebuild churches and reassemble scattered congregations. But we can distribute Bibles as fast as they can be provided. The American Bible Society is producing them as rapidly as the materials can be supplied, the presses run, and the space in ships found for delivery to Germany.



Tomorrow's Germany in Training: A pastor's daughter teaches religion in a German public school. Testaments, just received, are being studied by her class

Let one letter suffice to reflect the need for the Bible and its power to redeem. This letter, one of the longest and most detailed of all that have reached the Bible House, is from F. Heinzl, who introduces himself in the course of his letter. He writes:

Through the aid of Mr. J. Gwynne, of the staff of the Chief of Religious Section for the whole British Zone in Germany, I have received from the Division of Education of the British Headquarters in Hamburg 20 Bibles sent by you. May I with my whole heart thank you for them, as I, after long effort which was so far fruitless, now at last can put a Bible in the hands of my parishioners who long have wished for them.

I beg you to extend these thanks also to those in your country who have made possible the printing of these German Bibles in America.

Ever since 1943 it has not been possible for us pastors to secure Bibles. Through the destruction which took place, especially in the cities, by the air war, many Bibles were lost, so that no Bibles could be placed at our disposal from private hands. In order to be able to satisfy in a small degree the demand from the soldiers in Norway, we had for the chaplains of the Army 20,000 copies of the New Testament printed in Oslo. The cost of these was quickly covered by offerings in our parishes. These New Testaments were, however, shortly after the surrender entirely distributed.

Ever more frequently were we asked for whole Bibles, especially by people who had previously been turned away from the message of the Bible, and especially of the Old Testament, through the Nazi propaganda. Among many of these an earnest concern arose. And now I can at last put the Book in their hands so that they can go to the source for themselves. Part of these men have worked in the Gestapo and in the Secret Service, and have been in prison since the surrender, where they await their trial or suffer their punishment. In such a situation there is much time for searching the Word of God. It is my constant prayer that right many, through their preoccupation with the Bible, may find the way to our Lord and Savior. From one who already has been executed, I have seen that through God's Word he became an entirely new man. Though he was earlier, as a Gestapo man, one of those who thought that only fanatical hate of the enemy could help us, he wrote as his last word to his sister: "I will bear no hate." And he commissioned me, as I was with him on the night before his execution and celebrated with him the Holy Communion, to say to those who had judged and would execute him: "Say to them who have sentenced and executed me, so far from being blamed by me, that I forgive them and do not have hate for them." The word of 2 Corinthians 5:17—"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"—has become true for him. God grant that many may make their same way back to God as did this brother.

That you may know who I am, I inform you that I was active during the whole war as an army chaplain and am now working in Norway as an evangelical pastor among the German mine-searching groups who must clear the Skagerrak of the mine fields. Also I

Continued on page 39

Bible Society Record

A JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE WIDER DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF THE
HOLY SCRIPTURES

VOLUME 92 MARCH 1947 NUMBER 3

The Indispensables

The Secretary for Versions of the Bible Society introduces the reader to a class of rarely mentioned Helpers in the Great Missionary Enterprise

BY EUGENE A. NIDA

THE CLATTERING TRAIN jolted to a sudden stop on the edge of a tropical village in Yucatan. Beneath the open window stood an imploring, ragged boy, calling out the penny prices for the y-covered sweet buns stacked precariously on a palm-leaf tray. "Twenty years ago I was just like this boy," said my companion, now a university student and translation helper. "As an orphan I wandered the dusty streets of a village much like his one, and sold bread to the hungry passengers who passed through on the wheezing, narrow-gauge railway." It was then that I could understand how Moisés Romero, who had been helping in the translation of the Gospels into Maya, could choose just the right words for the "weary and the heavy laden." With him, "donkeys," "threshing floors," "women grinding at the mill," "hungry multitudes," and "the five loaves" all represented the very life which he had lived. His interest in the Maya language was not an academic one concerned with deciphering the strange ancient glyphs inscribed on demolished temples and pyramids, but a practical, intimate knowledge of the soul and life of a tribal nation numbering some 300,000. It was this downtrodden and neglected people for whom the Bible was destined; and it was this young university student whom God had prepared through the years of impoverishment to help translate most clearly the Word of life to those who continued to "sit in darkness." Moisés and the many like him, the native translation helpers, are the "indispensables" in the great task of bringing to people the Word of God. As the missionary first sits down with natives to record the strange-sounding words; as the native pastors later cluster about the translation table to

explain meanings and offer their suggestions; and as finally the educated native speaker begins the process of translating on his own with the counsel and advice of the missionary—at each and every stage the native speaker is the indispensable opener of language windows.

The translation helper may be a blind Navaho, as Geronimo Martin is; but he may have that same genius for shedding light on obscure idioms and revealing the truth to his fellow speakers of this difficult language. Or this translation assistant may be one who was formerly a drunken mayor of a squalid Aztec village, as was Don Martín; but this onetime soldier of the Mexican Revolution, marijuana smoker and revengeful man, can translate so well—one wonders who could do better—the passages which describe the turbulent, riotous mobs who sought the Savior's life. The "beaten servants" and the "unjust stewards" were reflected in the life of the enslaved peon and the cruel majordomos of Don Martín's own village. Or the translator may be a former guitar singer in the village saloons, as was Angel Merecias; but this brilliant man has become a translator of hymns, and renders difficult passages into his own Mixteco language with a profound insight into spiritual truths embodied in such words as "holy," "peace" and "righteousness."

Whether it is the Quechua native of the wind-swept highlands of Bolivia, who explains "God's grace" as "God looking upon us for good"; or the Karré Negro of the Congo, who speaks of the "Comforter" as "the One who falls down beside us," thus identifying Himself with us in our distress: this native helper is truly indispensable in giving God's Word to the world.

Japan Turns Toward Christ

*United Testimony from the "Sunrise Kingdom" indicates that the
Sun of Righteousness is shedding His ineffable
Light and the people are responding*

BY FRANCIS C. STIFLER

HE WAS A Japanese soldier and not a Christian. He had entered service as a student in Tokyo University. He was twenty-two years old. And this is what he said in 1945 to Mrs. Alice A. Wilcox, a former missionary, in her home in Foochow, China:

When the war is over, the Bible should be required taught in every school over the world. It is the only book in every language, and to have world peace we must have common understanding, and to have understanding we must have some basic beginning. The Bible is printed in every language, so it is all ready for that beginning.

If this young man is still among the living he is having no difficulty in seeing his opinion supported in his homeland, for Bibles are selling as fast as they can be printed, transported and offered to the people of Japan. In a recent article appearing in the *United Church Observer* of Canada, Mr. A. R. Stone, a missionary of that church in Japan, releases this heartening news:

Everywhere people are asking for Christian missionaries to conduct classes and explain the meaning of the Bible and its message for the new Japan.

Primary-school teachers, asked to teach religion and also the backgrounds of democracy, are in turn asking for Christian missionaries and ministers to teach them first.

When the Moderator, Mr. Kozaki, visited the conservative prefecture of Fukushima recently, schools in five counties took a holiday while five hundred teachers assembled in one place to hear him give three hours of lectures on the Christian backgrounds of democracy.

Tokyo government middle schools are asking for missionaries to teach the Christian Bible.

Every church is organizing Bible classes, and they are well attended. Opportunities for teaching the Bible are limited only by the time and strength of the missionary.

Everywhere one hears the same story: that, with the days of regimented Fascism over, the people—and especially younger folk who have become accustomed to

obeying orders from above—now do not know what to do. They are needing and often craving leadership. We Christians can give that leadership. In this connection a prominent citizen of Nagano said to the writer: "Japan today has no religion left that is a religion. I am not a Christian, but I believe that only Christ can teach the people to live right and lead the nation in the ways of righteousness." He and other prominent men are going to give liberally toward rebuilding the Church because they feel that the Christian religion is *needed*.



The Children of the Orphanage supported by the G.I. Gospel Hour of Tokyo appear well cared for

From other sources comes abundant evidence that the Japanese are responding to the supreme message of the Bible.

Huge crowds are attending evangelistic meetings conducted by Dr. Kagawa. At Hokkaido more than three thousand conversions were reported; at Shikoku, eleven hundred; and at Kyoto, four hundred. One Protestant minister has been invited to give a series of lectures on Christianity at the Ise shrine. Tokyo University, a major Buddhist school, has asked Christian leaders to provide six lectures on Christianity during the current term.

Meanwhile this wholesome surge toward the light of the gospel in Japan has the heartiest support from the American headquarters. General MacArthur is opening every door for the gospel; for he believes, as he recently wrote a leading churchman in America, that in Japan today Christianity has an opportunity "without counterpart since the birth of Christ." The general elaborates his conviction in these confident words: "If this opportunity is fully availed of by the leaders of the Christian faith, a revolution of the

that "However tired I may be, I never go to bed without reading a portion of this Book."

God has been preparing in his own measureless ways for this opportunity. How clearly he is commissioning us to seize hold and carry on! General MacArthur, hosts of our G.I.'s, our missionaries, Japanese Christians and eager, bewildered people by the thousands are doing their part. How can we fail them? How can we do less than supply Japan with all the Bibles and Testaments she calls for? Confident that the American people will pay what after all is the modest cost, the American Bible Society is pressing its program of printing and shipping these books in both Japanese and English for the eager hands of this awakening nation. Over 400,000 Japanese New Testaments have already been shipped. More than a million more and 150,000 Bibles are being manufactured. The balance of the money needed to make and ship these books—almost \$650,000—should reach the Society's Treasurer within ten days of the receipt of this issue of the *Record*. How many books will you send to Japan?



Lt. Bill Ueda of the American Army preaching at a Japanese church service

spirit may be expected to ensue which may more favorably alter the course of civilization than has any economic or political revolution in the history of the world. I know that you will join me in the hope that we may rise to this opportunity and squarely meet its challenge. The occupation of Japan from its inception has proceeded with minimum display of Allied force. While its course has been firmly charted toward the achievement of our political objectives, progress has rested more upon those guiding tenets of the Christian faith—justice, tolerance, understanding—which, without yielding firmness, have underwritten all applied policy, than upon the power or threat of Allied bayonets."

When we read assertions like this from the pen of our Chief in Japan, it is appropriate to recall that Douglas MacArthur read the Bible through six times while he was in West Point, and that he stated to a representative of the British and Foreign Bible Society, early in the days of the war,



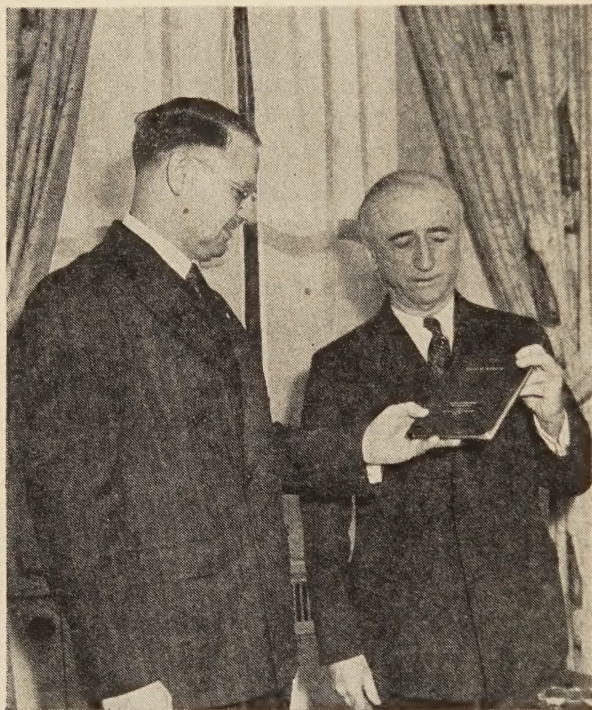
Lt. John Thomas teaching the lesson at a Japanese National Army Hospital in Tokyo

What Your Gift Will Do

| | JAPANESE NEW TESTAMENTS | JAPANESE BIBLES | ENGLISH BIBLES |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| \$1,000 will provide | 3,350 | 800 | 1,665 |
| 500 will provide | 1,665 | 400 | 833 |
| 100 will provide | 333 | 80 | 166 |
| 25 will provide | 82 | 20 | 40 |
| 10 will provide | 33 | 8 | 16 |

The Book of the Years for the Man of the Year

On November 27, several weeks before former Secretary James F. Byrnes had been, by the *Time Magazine* poll, named the Man of the Year, the American Bible Society presented him with a



Secretary Claypool makes the Presentation

handsomely bound copy of the Bible in his office suite at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

As he made the presentation in behalf of the Society, Secretary Claypool characterized Mr. Byrnes as "a public servant taught and trained by the precepts and example of this Book of Books, courageous in his religious convictions, able and successful in his stewardship to state and nation, developed and disciplined for his present unique mission of helping to promote and establish universal security among the peoples of the world."

In response, Mr. Byrnes said in part, "I want to express my sincere appreciation to you for being so honored by the Bible Society, whose good works are known to the people of the United States I will treasure this gift and put it to good use."

Seeding Down a County

HERE IS A PICTURE of Rev. R. J. Donaldson and his faithful wife. Mr. Donaldson is pastor of all the Methodist churches in Dawson County, Georgia. He is the kind of Christian minister that the Bible Society delights to honor, for he senses the importance of the Society's chief concern—to place the Scriptures persuasively in the hands of people who otherwise might never get them.

Dawson County is mountainous and many of its roads are impassable in winter. For this reason

Mr. Donaldson concentrated on the summer months of 1946 to do his work.

He first visited the county schools, churches and summer revivals. In the schools he gave Gospels to all who would promise to read them. When they had read their Gospels and had convinced their teachers that they had, Mr. Donaldson gave each pupil a New Testament. To those reading the New Testaments and convincing the teacher of it, he gave a Bible. To the one who excelled in memorization work he offered a prize of a white Bible. As for the adults, in addition to the hundreds who got out their old Bibles and joined in the reading, Mr. Donaldson placed about one thousand Gospels in the hands of those who promised to read them, gave 650 New Testaments as awards to those who completed the reading of the Gospels, and 300 Bibles as prizes to those who completed the reading of their New Testaments. The one winning the white Bible for memorizing the largest number of verses was a ten-year-old boy at Dawsonville named Donald Burt. He memorized six hundred verses of Scripture. He is a sixth-grader. Another boy, Donald Stephens, aged eight, in the fourth grade, memorized ninety-six verses and received the second prize.

A man whose business took him through the county came into the Society's Atlanta office to

(Continued on page 43)



Rev. and Mrs. Donaldson

Two Bibles for a Mayor

Secretary Hudspeth, on the eve of his departure on furlough, following his long term of imprisonment as an enemy alien, makes a present to General Chien Ta Chun

BY RALPH MORTENSEN

ON THE MORNING of October 15, 1945 an incident unheralded in the press took place in Shanghai, the fourth city in the world. The scene was in a private office of the Mayor of Shanghai, General Chien Ta Chun, whose headquarters are in the magnificent buildings of the aforetime International Municipal Council. Accompanied by a highly efficient interpreter, the mayor met by appointment Dr. C. S. Miao, and the Rev. W. H. Hudspeth, who had intimated to the mayor that on the eve of his departure for England Mr. Hudspeth wished to present him with a copy of the Bible, since during the long war years the Bible had proved so great a source of strength and inspiration to many eminent leaders not only in China but throughout the world. The ceremony was quite simple. With a few well-chosen words Mr. Hudspeth explained that he was presenting an English copy of the Bible as a token of his belief that lasting peace and firm international friendship could be built up only on the great moral and spiritual principles enunciated and expounded in the recorded revelation of Jesus Christ. In presenting a Chinese copy of the Scriptures Dr. Miao explained that the China Bible House (in which the British and Foreign and the American Bible Societies and the National Bible Society of Scotland have been merged) is now a Chinese organization which, while cooperating with overseas Bible Societies, is becoming in its formation and outlook indigenous to China's soil.

After expressing his deep appreciation of the honor that had been done to him the mayor made two pertinent observations which revealed the quickness and power of penetration of the Chinese mind. "I am aware," he said, "of the profound help the Bible was to our Generalissimo (Chiang Kai-Shek) throughout his captivity in Sian in 1936, and I know how many of my friends have valued this Book during these strenuous years"; then, turning to Mr. Hudspeth, he asked what specific passages had sustained him during his long imprisonment. "The great sayings of Jesus in St. John's Gospel," replied Mr. Hudspeth; and turning to the beginning of the fourth Gospel, Mr.

Hudspeth placed the book mark there, with the suggestion that in reading the New Testament this book was perhaps the most suitable upon which a Chinese student could commence, more particularly a student who is interested in the three religions of China, Taoism, Buddhism and Confucianism.

The mayoralty of a town such as Shanghai is an office of enormous difficulty even in normal times. How much more difficult will the work be, following upon enemy occupation during a period of eight years and the retrocession of all extraterritorial rights which Shanghai has experienced since November, 1843? The problems are stupendous, and readers are asked to pray for General Chien, and especially that, in perusing the Bible, he will find for himself the reality of what our Lord claimed when He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

GERMANY RESPONDS

Continued from inside front cover

serve as pastor of the Gestapo and SD people who are in prison. At the end of October this year the mine sweeping will be over and I will be able to return to Germany, and can at last work again as minister in a parish. Since I have lost my house, with all my furniture and such things . . . , I must seek a new home. I hope to be able to set up in Württemberg, with God's help, a new home for me, my wife and my three children. If one has to be away from his loved ones for more than seven years, one looks eagerly to the hour when one can again live with mankind in one's own home, which is a gift of God even if it is in the greatest poverty.

If it should be possible to send me a few Bibles, I beg you to send them to the address I give at the top of this letter, at Hamburg-Othmarschen, where I shall go first after my return to Germany.

Meanwhile I thank you heartily again for the Bibles and wish for you and the Bible Society God's rich blessing on your work; and greet you with the text of last Sunday: "The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?"

John Huss Lighted a Candle

BY RUTH O. DOBIAS

This article is contributed by one of the staff of workers at the Bible House, the daughter of a Czechoslovakian pastor, who herself spent about three years in a German internment camp.

In its Postwar Emergency program the Society is providing 100,000 Czech Gospels to tide over the period until local production can begin again.

THE LIFE AND PREACHING of John Huss, who was influenced by John Wyclif to search the Scriptures more thoroughly, lit a candle first for his own people, and later, through his heroic death, for the whole world. The light was set on a high hill where it could not be hid.

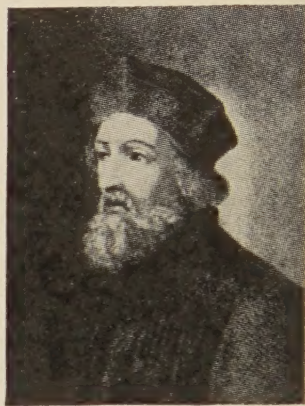
The immediate result of the teachings of this faithful witness, who exhorted his people to love the truth and defend it even unto death, was the formation of a practical Christian Brotherhood which, in its earliest beginnings, followed the example of the early Christian church in sharing all things in common. It was of the women of this age that Aeneas Sylvius (Pope Pius II) wrote that every ordinary Czech woman knew the Bible better than any Catholic priest. The spiritual songs of this age, notably the famous "Kdož jste Boží bojovníci a zákona Jeho" (Ye Who Are The Warriors of God and of His Law) used as a motif of patriotism in B. Smetana's greatest symphony, helped to preserve a spirit of nationalism in the ages of darkness that were to follow. The light, lit in darkness, struggled on through the darkness.

Among no other people of the earth has the Bible been more treasured. The two most prized books among the Czechs—as in Anglo-Saxon countries, the English Bible and "Pilgrim's Progress"—were, after the battle of the White Mountain in 1620, the Kralická Bible and "The Labyrinth of the World" by Comenius. But the pathos and inner strength of the lines of the song of the exiles (Nevzali jsme sebou nic, po všem je veta, jen Bibli kralickou a Labyrint světa), telling of how the exiles have lost their all (home, country, worldly goods and honor) and have only the Kralická Bible and the "Labyrinth of the World" left to them, are nowhere paralleled. The exiles went out with Comenius, the great educator and last bishop of the Unity of Czech Brethren. Those who remained very often had to hide the Bible

under the floor-work of their homes or in the dough of the big brown loaves of bread they were getting ready to put in the oven. The Bible remained the peculiar treasure they wished to preserve, if at all possible.

As my mother and I placed red tulips on the last resting-place of the great Comenius in Naarden, near Amsterdam, where the Czechs since the formation of the Czechoslovakian republic have erected a beautiful mausoleum, there came to our minds the Hussite motto, "Truth will prevail," and the prophecy of Comenius

—who believed firmly that the government of the Czech people would return into their own hands. Does not the brave new republic deserve our prayers? Has it not striven to obey the behest of our Lord, when He said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven"?



John Huss

A TURKISH T

A FEW MONTHS AGO one of our great East universities had offered a place on the staff of its Department of Oriental Languages to an eminent Turkish scholar, who accepted.

It was arranged by correspondence that he should arrive in this country in time to take up his duties in the early part of September. Instead, he brought a young wife in midsummer, as he wished to have her confined in a New York hospital.

When he reached the university the house which he was to occupy was being painted and renovated.

The head of the department went to a friend of his in desperation and asked her to take the Turkish scholar and his wife and infant into her home until the house was ready.

She said, "I can let them have a room and bath, but I cannot expect my maid to cook for the families and wash for a baby."

The Helpful Horse

All over the world humble, devoted men, with no interest in personal gain, are offering the Scriptures to their fellows. The Secretary of the Society's Agency in Istanbul, Turkey here gives us a snapshot of one of these men at his work

BY LYMAN MACCALLUM

IF A PASSING HORSE—an entire stranger of a horse—leaves his part of the road, climbs onto your sidewalk and stamps determinedly on your toes, how many Gospels do you distribute in consequence?

Intent on keeping an appointment, Colporteur Vahram was hurrying along a busy street of Galata in Istanbul. Suddenly the crowd parted, a horse loomed above him, a hoof came down cruelly on his foot and the beast's shoulder all but knocked him to the ground. The driver, who was on foot and pulling vigorously at the reins while he shouted warnings to the pedestrians, now got his team and vehicle turned into the road and brought them to a halt. Vahram reached for his fallen bag, and began to feel his sore foot and investigate the small tear in his trouser's-leg. He hopped over to the driver.

"If I had been in the roadway and you had run me down, it would have been my fault," he began.

HE TESTIFIES

was arranged that the foreign gentleman go. One day the young wife said to her American friend, "Why are you so good to me?"

"I good to you? I did not know that I was." "Yes, you are very good to me. What you so good?"

An American woman said, "I suppose it is because my Christian religion tells me I must be good to everyone."

A young Turkish mother told her that every American had been so kind to her. Everyone in the hospital had done so much for her. Even the doctor asked them if they had a book in the library for her to read in the Turkish language, the nurse had brought a New Testament in the Turkish language from the hospital library. "I liked to read of your prophet Jesus," she said to her friend.

"I liked to read of your prophet Jesus. I want to hear more about him."

"Whatever you say is right," interrupted the driver most humbly. "But that other cart bumped into mine and scared my team, and the damage was done before I could get them under my hand again."

"Look at my torn trousers. My foot is hurting very much. Other people would take you to court for this. But I read a Book which forbids me to go to law with people. The least you could do would be to buy a copy."

"Sure, I'll buy one, no matter what it costs."

"It costs only ten piasters, but you must promise to read it, for it's no use selling you a book that you won't read."

While the driver was swearing he would read it, every word, a young man who had listened to their conversation joined in with "I'll take two of those Gospels, if you have any more."

After satisfying him, Vahram turned into a barber shop to brush the dust of the accident off his clothes. There the Jewish barber told of his own misadventure of that morning. His apprentice had run away with his jacket, in the pocket of which were the day's takings. The boy had been forced to bring back the jacket, but the money was spent. "Get out of here, you rascal, before I lay hands on you," he had shouted at the boy. "Tomorrow is our day of repentance, and I already have enough to repent of."

"Misfortune makes us brothers," said Vahram; "and as a brother I would like to make you a gift of this little book, which teaches me how to bear the misfortunes which are our lot in this life."

The barber accepted readily. From the other chair, where a customer was being shaved, a voice came up through the suds, "I'd like one, too. How much does it cost?"

"Five Gospels," mused Vahram, "where I had no thought or intention of selling *one*! God, who gave speech to Balaam's ass, today sent His horse to guide me to five of his children who needed the Gospel. Surely, now—despite this aching foot—He will get me to my meeting."

He did.

The Blind Express Their Thanks

The Braille Concordance fills a long-felt need and the Society's Secretary for the Blind here passes on a few of their expressions of gratitude

BY S. RUTH BARRETT

NEVER have I witnessed greater rejoicing and enthusiasm by those who read with their fingertips than when the word went out that the new Braille Concordance was ready. They had waited and prayed for it so long that, when it was finally completed, the news seemed too good to be true. One blind man said, "It is a gift from heaven."

What this first Concordance means to the Blind is revealed in the following words of gratitude culled from the hundreds which have come from blind ministers, Sunday-school teachers, librarians and many others desiring to draw more deeply from the riches to be found in the Bible.

From Burlington, N. C.

My husband, who is blind, is the pastor of a small church in this city and can use greatly any biblical material you may have. Please send the Braille Concordance. Since this is a Christmas gift for him, will you please send it immediately?

From Portland, Oregon

I was thrilled to learn that there is now a Bible Concordance in Braille. I have hoped for one for a long time. Thank you, too, for putting the price within the reach of every blind person.

From Pottsville, Pa.

I am scarcely able to realize that at last my hopes are to be fulfilled.

From Herbert, Sask.

I have been in desperate need of a concordance. I praise the Lord for you.

From Nashville, Tenn.

We are an elderly couple, both blind physically. We have long felt the need of such a concordance and we are delighted that it is available at last, for we love and study the Bible. God bless you in your work!

From Neelyville, Missouri

I think this work is second only in importance to the printing of the Bible in Braille. I know we of the sight-

less world will be most grateful. The American Bible Society has been a real friend to us.

From Austin, Texas

I have been looking forward many years to the time when I would have a concordance to help me in the study of my Bible.

(This message was received from Mr. Donald A. Davis, who traveled about for two years telling the people of his city, through the churches, of the great need among the Blind for a Concordance, and by his efforts raised \$739.78. At his request complete sets of the Concordance were supplied to the Texas School for the Blind, the Public Library of Austin and to the Library of the University of Texas.)

From Atlanta, Ga.

I am enclosing three dollars for the set. That is indeed reasonable, for it hardly pays for the paper that goes into it. I know this will be a great asset to my Bible study.

From Avon Lake, Ohio

Having a concordance to the Bible in Braille has been one of the great desires of my life. Thank you so very much for bringing it out and for a price that most of us can afford.

From Orlando, Florida

Please send me the new Braille Concordance of the Bible. May the Lord continue to increase your sphere of usefulness to us who are without sight, as well as many others who are in need of spiritual food.

From Brown City, Michigan

I am a blind minister and have long needed a concordance. This is really a wonderful boon to me.

From Louisville, Ky.

Enclosed is check for three dollars for the ten volumes of the Braille Bible Concordance. I truly think it is an answer to prayer, I have wanted it for so long.

From Toronto, Kansas

I am a totally blind minister and have been wishing for something like this for years. I was very happy to hear this good news and wish to congratulate you.



The Small Book in the Foreground contains in ink-print type the copy reproduced in the Ten-volume Braille Concordance

from Nashville, Tenn.

Will you please send the new Braille Concordance to Earl, who is a senior in high school this year and plans to begin study for the ministry immediately upon graduation. He is a worthy boy, and I believe this concordance will assist him greatly.

Helen Keller's Testimony

In early December, while touring war-torn Europe on a survey of the needs of the Blind, Helen Keller's home was completely destroyed by fire, including all of her precious possessions—among which was her Bible. Learning that she was returning just before Christmas, the Society sent to her temporary home, to greet her upon her return, the complete Bible in Braille in twenty volumes—and also a set of the new Concordance—to help replace her loss.

Her beautiful letter of appreciation is reproduced here:

The American Bible Society
New York City

Dear Friends,

The Bible itself, through which the Lord transfigures my dark silence, is the only Voice that can convey to you my thanksgiving for your noble gift. For that gift symbolizes how my Messenger walks through the fire and is not burned, nor does the flame kindle upon Him.

When the copy of the Bible I received from you years ago—the body—perished, I am sure its soul left a blessing upon the mornings and evenings my hand had passed over the pages; and behold, your new house set up for my inner habitation, with the fir, pine and boxwood turning disaster into light, harmony and immortal strength! As your beneficence to the blind throughout the world is unique, so will your readiness to fill my Valley of Baca again with the wellsprings of the Word shine forever in God's approving sight.

A more beautiful way could not have been found to dedicate my new earthly home, and I shall enter, when it is built, confident that my work will be as gold tried in the furnace.

To wish you a happy New Year is but to declare that another wind of Eternity will blow yet further your ships of love and healing brotherhood.

Gratefully yours,

Helen Keller

from Long Beach, California

This much-needed book comes as an answer to my prayer. I know it will give much freedom to every Braille reader.

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

The Concordance is in ten bulky volumes costing about \$22 for the set. The Society offers it to the Blind at the special price of 25 cents a volume plus postage or, \$3. The Bible in Braille is in twenty volumes and costs \$47. It is also supplied to the sightless at the special price of 25 cents a volume plus postage. The difference between the cost price of all the Society's embossed volumes and Talking Book records, and the special price, is met through contributions to the Society's Blind Fund.

Two New Field Officers

This will serve to introduce to our readers two new Field Secretaries, who with the New Year began their



Mr. Hofrichter



Mr. Speer

work in Cleveland and Kansas City, Mo. Mr. William W. Speer, who opened and conducted the work in Cleveland last year, has gone to open and serve the new office in Kansas City. The office address is 515 Pickwick Building, Kansas City 6, Mo.

Mr. Charles H. Hofrichter takes over Mr. Speer's field in Cleveland, where the address remains The Arcade, 401 Euclid Avenue.

SEEDING DOWN A COUNTY

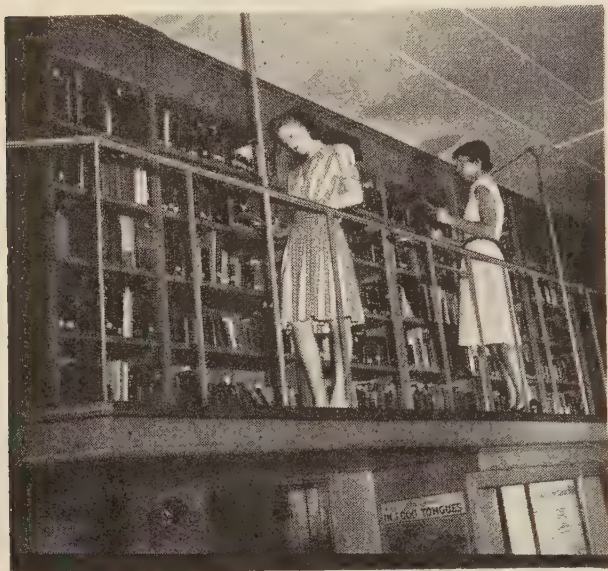
(Continued from page 38)

declare his conviction that Dawson County had been made Bible-Reading conscious. He said that whether he stopped on the roadside, or in the field where men were working, or in a store or home, the one topic of conversation was, "How many verses of the Bible have you read?"

Who can measure the value of such a ministry?—and the more so when one is informed that Dawson County's churches are closed during the winter months because of impassable roads; and where, possibly for that reason, the area was reported, during the height of the illicit liquor traffic, to have had more stills per capita than any county in the United States.

The Society's Library

Miss Margaret T. Hills, the Society's Librarian, reported at the close of 1946 that there were 16,323 volumes in the Society's collection of printed Scriptures, the number of languages represented being 878. Four-



Miss Hills (right) and a helper at work on the Library gallery

teen languages were added to the list in 1946. Most of the 434 volumes added were books printed in the Twentieth Century; there were 290 of these. The older books were distributed as follows: Nineteenth Century, 95; Eighteenth Century, 14; Seventeenth Century, 8; Sixteenth Century, 8. There were 19 copies without date added. Visitors to the library numbered 1,446, of which 296 belonged to study groups. A continuous stream of correspondence with regard to old Bibles was carried on. Visitors to New York should not fail to see the Bible House Library, which serves two principal purposes: first, as a center of research; and second, to exhibit the multiplicity of forms and languages in which the Scriptures have been developed for the use of mankind. There is no other library in the Western Hemisphere just like it.

Serving the Northwest



Mr. Bruckmann

Most readers of the *Bible Society Record* in Montana and neighboring states need no introduction to Rev. Frederick Bruckmann, who has been for many years distributing Scriptures and soliciting support for the Society in the vast area of the Northwest. We introduce him here to all our readers. After more than fifty years as a colporteur, Mr. Bruckmann is still as vigorously at work as ever. Last summer he assumed his duties as a Field Secretary, with headquarters in Missoula, Montana.

Remember Pearl Harbor?

One of the most disastrous effects of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was the destruction of American planes at Hickam Field. In addition to the great loss of life and property, this attack postponed the formal service planned to dedicate an American Bible Society Pulpit Bible for the new Army chapel at this same field.

Five years later, on Universal Bible Sunday, December 8, 1946, service men of the Air Corps once again celebrated Universal Bible Sunday.

Chaplain Blake M. Franklin did even more; he suggested that the offering received on Universal Bible Sunday, and also on the Sunday following, be sent to the American Bible Society. A check for \$100 has just been received from Chaplain Franklin.

POSTAGE STAMPS SUPPLY SCRIPTURES!

The peoples of the world, with few exceptions, are asking for Bibles. You can help your Bible Society meet these requests by giving postage stamps to provide Scriptures. Send stamps to the Bible House, 450 Park Ave., New York 22, N. Y.

Here are some guides for your giving:

Stamps

1. Any U.S. "Commemoratives," i.e., Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, Smithsonian, Kearny. Use them on family mail and save them for the Society.
2. High denominations of U.S. stamps.
3. Old issues of any country.
4. Foreign stamps.
5. Unused stamps. (They are worth face value or more.)

Covers

1. Foreign "covers," i.e., whole envelopes with stamps on.
2. Old envelopes (before 1900), such as come from trunks and attics!

Books

1. Stamp collections or books about stamps.

General Suggestions

- a. Stamps should be cut off (leaving $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch margin) or soaked off. *Peeling stamps makes them thin and valueless.*
- b. Envelopes should be slit open carefully without damage to the stamps. *Clipped edges spoil stamps.*
- c. Packages may go 4th class, marked "Used postage stamps, may be opened for inspection."
- d. Please do not send ordinary U.S. 1c, 2c and 3c stamps. They are not worth mailing or sorting. The Society is very grateful for your help.

MEMBERS' FORUM

[Annual Membership in the Society is secured through a gift of \$5 or more for the carrying on of its work. The Society also provides for Life Membership, Life Directorship and Memorial Membership. Particulars will be sent on request. The editors welcome correspondence from members and devote this page in each issue to that purpose.]

From Minneapolis:

Central Lutheran Church reported yesterday that a soldier in a small town in Minnesota heard Mr. Ingvoldstad's three-minute plea from Central broadcast over WCAL and sent in a check for \$500. Our soldiers haven't forgotten, but I am afraid that many of us civilians have!

From Veterans' Administration Center, Biloxi, Mississippi:

We are grateful indeed for the fifty Bibles, which were received in perfect condition and which will be distributed from time to time to the patients in the hospital and members of the home here. We are encouraged to know that Bible reading and interest have been heightened at this center, and assure you that we appreciate your help in furnishing the Bibles so that the men may continue this good work.

From the Veterans' Administration Hospital at Wadsworth, Kansas:

We do appreciate so very, very much the fine support we receive from the grand old American Bible Society. God bless her! May she always be found in the forefront! I have yet to find, in my ten years or more as chaplain with service men, the first man who ignored completely the fact that this is the Word of God.

Only Heaven knows just what the American Bible Society means to us here, in our efforts to keep the home fires burning in the souls of our veterans.

From the Post Chaplain at Fort Dix, New Jersey:

I want to take this method to thank you for helping me observe Universal Bible Sunday in my chapel. My men were helped a great deal as we observed the services together. It gave one a feeling of inspiration to realize that he could be reading the same Scripture that millions of other Christians were reading around the world. I tried as best I could to show the men how they could

use their Bibles for great influence while in the service of their country. I shall be looking forward to your program in 1947 and will observe it wherever I might be.

From Tulsa, Oklahoma:

I notice in your *Bible Society Record* that the English are making a greater contribution to Bible distribution than the United States.

I still insist that, if the masses of the church people knew that the average United States citizen gives annually $\frac{1}{2}c$ per individual against the English 2c, that many of them would give 5c per day. This would be, for 365 days, \$18.25—which is missing just one meal per week at 35c for a meal. I am sure that many would remit \$1 per month on the installment plan and not feel it. Our average should be stepped up!

From Kansas City, Kansas:

Enclosed are checks totaling \$100. While the amount is only a drop in the ocean of need, to me it represents a goal attained after months of rigid economy and earnest prayer. My friends would say that I cannot afford to give it. In the face of the unparalleled opportunity, the challenge to every Christian is to act NOW, if we would have Christ instead of chaos in war-torn lands. I cannot afford not to give it.

My deepest interest is Scriptures for Japan; but use it as you think best. My prayer is that God will bless every penny for His cause.

From San Antonio, Texas:

I heard someone over the radio this morning telling what you want to do to put Bibles in the hands of the Japanese, the Koreans and the Germans, and that you want the Totonac Indians to have the Gospel of St. Mark; so I want to help in the work. Mexico was my mission field until I was sick and too old to work longer. I send you a check for \$50.

From the Treasurer of the Evangelical Church in Tocamacho, Honduras (translated from the Spanish):

After sending you a cordial greeting and a handshake, I pass on to tell you that together with this letter I send you a check for \$5 to send New Testaments to Japan. We very much regret that we have not much more to send you, but here the Church of Christ is small and in its infancy in the Lord.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Bible Society Record

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution and Use of the Holy Scriptures

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

Address correspondence to the
Managing Editor

FRANCIS CARR STIFLER

450 Park Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.



Vol. 92 MARCH 1947 No. 3

Daily Bible Readings for March

| Day | Book | Chapter | Day | Book | Chapter |
|-----|--------|----------|-----|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Psalms | 19; 20 | 18 | Mark | 5:1-20 |
| 2 | Psalms | 22:1-19 | 19 | Mark | 5:21-43 |
| 3 | Psalms | 22:20-31 | 20 | Mark | 6:1-29 |
| 4 | Psalms | 23; 24 | 21 | Mark | 6:30-56 |
| 5 | Psalms | 25 | 22 | Mark | 7:1-23 |
| 6 | Psalms | 26; 27 | 23 | Mark | |
| 7 | Psalms | 28; 30 | 24 | Mark | 7:24-8; 10; Isa. 1:1-20 |
| 8 | Psalms | 32 | 25 | Mark | 8:11-38 |
| 9 | Psalms | 37:1-23 | 26 | Mark | 9:1-27 |
| 10 | Psalms | 37:24-40 | 27 | Mark | 9:28-50 |
| 11 | Psalms | 42; 43 | 28 | Mark | 10:1-25 |
| 12 | Mark | 1:1-20 | 29 | Mark | 10:26-52 |
| 13 | Mark | 1:21-45 | 30 | Mark | 11:1-33 |
| 14 | Mark | 2:1-27 | 31 | Palm Sun. | Mark |
| 15 | Mark | 3:1-35 | | | 12:1-34; Ps. 24 |
| 16 | Mark | 4:1-20 | | | 12:35-13:23 |
| 17 | Mark | 4:21-41 | | | |

★ ★ Leaflet Prices Up

As certain leaflets are reprinted following the exhaustion of supplies at present in stock, the prices in quantity lots will undergo an advance. This applies particularly to the leaflets kept in print by the Department for Promotion of Use of the Bible which are general helps to Bible reading.

Current prices will prevail for all leaflets now on hand. When reprints are made, in general the leaflets now listed at 15c per hundred will increase to 25c per hundred, and those listed at 25c per hundred to 50c per hundred.

Small quantities will continue to be provided free. It is not intended to charge an amount sufficient to cover the full expenses of distributing these



Here is the busy Recording of Gifts Department at the old Bible House, 45 Astor Place. On cards in the file drawers are more than a million different names of those who contribute or who are prospective contributors.

There are approximately 200,000 people who gave as much as \$1.00 to the work of the Society last year. More than 800,000, therefore, of the cards list those who have not yet made gifts or who may have given something in previous years but have not renewed.

If your acknowledgment is not

always promptly received or if you occasionally receive duplicate appeals, a little reflection upon this picture may help you to understand the physical difficulties in handling such a volume of correspondence. The problem of changes of address alone is enormous. Thousands of people on these lists move every year, and the changes thus created have to be recorded on the cards which list their gifts, and on the list which goes to the printers of the *Bible Society Record*, who mail the copies out from Chicago, Illinois. We ask you to be patient and understanding.

leaflets, but to ask for a larger share of the printing expense.

The large quantities of leaflets distributed is not always realized by our constituency. For instance, three of the most popular of a score of leaflets—WHERE TO LOOK, MY READING RECORD and HOW TO READ THE BIBLE have reached a circulation in the last six years of 2,000,000, 1,700,000, and 1,500,000 respectively.

★ ★ January Meeting of the Board

A meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and thirty-first year was held at the Bible House, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, on Thursday, January 2, 1947, at 3:30 p.m., President Daniel Burke, LL.D., in the Chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Mr. Carl E. Holmes.

Mr. Robert C. Van Tuyl was appointed to the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. William D. Winter to the Finance Committee, and Mr. William W. Stewart to the Foreign Agencies Committee.

Mr. Charles H. Hofrichter was appointed a Field Secretary.

Copies of the first edition of the Gospel of St. Mark in Mazateco and Spanish were presented.

A letter of appreciation from Helen Keller, to whom the Society had sent a Braille Bible to replace the one which was burned when her house was destroyed by fire, was read.

Mr. John Ritchie was appointed Acting Agency Secretary of the La Plata Agency.

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